

## Message Text

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SUB: AAMULEHTI INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR AUSTAD

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW WITH  
AMBASSADOR AUSTAD WITH HEADLINE "CSCE SPIRIT FOR NEWS  
DISSEMINATION" PUBLISHED IN AAMULEHTI, OCT 5:

THE "UNPROVEN ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE CIA" IN THE TELEVISION  
PROGRAM "TASAVALLASSA TAPAHTUU" HAVE ANGERED U.S. AMBASSADOR  
MARK EVANS AUSTAD, 58. HE BELIEVES FINNISH MEDIA COULD USE  
"A LITTLE PRACTICE IN THE POLICY OF DETENTE", THE STRENGTHENING  
OF WHICH WAS THE AIM OF THE CSCE.

I BELIEVE FINNISH NEWSPAPERS ARE MUCH FAIRER TO THE UNITED  
STATES THAN TELEVISION. THE NEWSPAPERS ARE FOR THE MOST PART  
RESPONSIBLE, AUSTAD SAYS. IN HIS OPINION, IT IS QUITE  
DIFFERENT IF A STATE-OWNED MEDIUM (RADIO AND TELEVISION)  
RATHER THAN A PRIVATELY-OWNED MEDIUM CONTINUOUSLY CRITICIZES  
ANOTHER COUNTRY.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE FBC IS MEANT TO BE PART OF THE  
FOREIGN POLICY MACHINERY, BUT IT MUST BE INTERPRETED AS SUCH,  
AUSTAD SAYS.

AMERICA'S AFFECTION MAY VANISH

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YOU MUST NOT KICK THE BIG ONE FOR A LONG TIME

AMBASSADOR MARK AUSTAD SEEMS TO BE REALLY ANNOYED. HE BELIEVES THAT DURING HIS SIX-MONTHS TENURE AS AN AMBASSADOR HE HAS CONTINUOUSLY SEEN TELEVISION NEWS GIVING A DISTORTED PICTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUSTAD, WHO HAS WORKED MOST OF HIS LIFE IN MEDIA, CONSIDERS THIS AS A SERIOUS DANGER FOR THE CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY FINNISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. "FINNISH MEDIA SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT A BIG COUNTRY LIKE THE UNITED STATES CANNOT BE KICKED FOR A LONG TIME, WITHOUT CAUSING A REACTION," AUSTAD SAYS, REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO THE STATE-OWNED FBC.

"I AM NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER PERHAPS FEELING SYMPATHY FOR FINLAND BUT I AM CONCERNED THAT FINLAND MIGHT LOSE AMERICA'S AFFECTION," AUSTAD SYAS. BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON LAST SATURDAY, AUSTAD HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND FOREIGN MINISTER MATTILA ABOUT WHAT HE COULD DO TO HELP THE WARTSILA COMPANY'S ICEBREAKER DEALS. THE ICEBREAKERS WOULD BE BOUGHT BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD. ANOTHER SUBJECT CONCERNED POSSIBLE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS WHICH MIGHT THREATEN VALIO'S CHEESE IN THE UNITED STATES.

BUT THE MAIN TOPIC IN THE DISCUSSIONS WERE THE "DISTORTIONS" OF TV'S NEW AND CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS, AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

TV-2 REPORTER, MATTI KARHU, DID NOT GUESS WHAT KIND OF AN AVALANCHE HE WOULD START WHEN HE CLAIMED, WITHOUT MENTIONING THE SOURCE, THE THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATIONS OF MAY CHIEFS-OF-STATE AND FOR THE PLANNING OF SOME ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON THE SAME LEVEL. THIS WAS THE LAST DROP THAT MADE AMBASSADOR AUSTAD PAY ATTENTION TO THE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS. DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, HE PROPOSES TO DISCUSS "THE NEWS PROBLEM ON TELEVISION" ALSO WITH PRESIDENT FORD. IF HE

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IS UNAVAILABLE, UASTAD WILL TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSET MAN IN ADDITION TO HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

AUSTAD CHARACTERIZES THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS INTERVIEW AS PERSONAL OPINIONS.

BALANCED CRITICISM

AMBASSADOR AUSTAD SAYS HE IS THE LAST PERSON TO WANT TO RESTRICT FREEDOM OF SPEECH. BUT HE STRESSES THAT HE WILL BE THE FIRST TO DEMAND THAT A REPORTER MUST RECOGNIZE HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HE REPORTS.

"IF YOU CRITICIZE NOT ONLY US, BUT ALSO THE OTHERS IN THE SAME WAY, I'M ON YOUR SIDE, "AUSTAD SAYS, MEANING THE MEDIA. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT WANT TO EXPRESS HIS OPINION ON THE GENERAL IMAGE OF THE OUTER WORLD PRESENTED BY FINNISH TV NEWS.

"I DO NOT CRITICIZE THE SHOWING OF CRITICAL PROGRAMS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES IF THEY HAVE BEEN PROVEN CORRECT. BUT I OPPOSE THE FELLOW (REPORTER KARHU) ACCUSING US OF THIS AND THAT. THE MAN SAYS ON TELEVISION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CHARLES DE GAULLE, FOR THE DEATH OF ALLENDE AND FOR THE DEATH OF TRUJILLO. SOME PEOPLE MIGHT BELIEVE THAT, AUSTAD BURSTS OUT. "UNDER YOUR LAW, ONE CAN GET A MAXIMUM OF TWO YEARS IN PRISON FOR JEOPARDIZING THE RELATIONS OF COUNTRIES THROUGH THIS MEDIA", RE REMARKS SHARPLY.

WHAT WOULD YOUR AMBASSADOR DO?

AMBASSADOR AUSTAD SAYS THAT HE KNOWS VERY WELL THAT AMERICAN TELEVISION COMPANIES ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR WRONGDOING IN THEIR COUNTRY. THESE REPORTS ARE ALSO OFFERED FOR SALE TO EUROPEAN TELEVISION COMPANIES.

"THEN THE NEWS CHIEF HERE URGES THAT YOU TAKE THE BEST REPORT OF THE MATERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN OFFERED. THIS WAY WE CRUCIFY OURSELVES EVERY EVENING BY OUR SELF-CRITICISM," AUSTAD SAYS.

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THE PRINCIPAL DIFFERENCE ACCORDING TO AUSTAD BETWEEN FINNISH AND AMERICAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA IS THAT AMERICAN TELEVISION COMPANIES ARE PRIVATE. THE STATE OF FINLAND OWNS THE FBC AND IT IS ULTIMATELY CONTROLLED BY PARLIAMENT, THE HIGHEST LEGISLATIVE BODY IN THE COUNTRY.

"IT IS QUITE DIFFERENT IF A STATE-OWNED MEDIUM CRITICIZES ANOTHER COUNTRY," AUSTAD SYAS.

HE REVERSES THE EXAMPLE. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE UNITED STATES HAD A STATE-OWNED RADIO AND TELEVISION COMPANY AND IT WOULD CONTAIN ATTACKS ON FINLAND EVERY DAY AND EVENING IN VARIOUS FORMS.

"HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT WOULD TAKE AMBASSADOR TUOMINEN TO

ARRIVE AT OUR STATE DEPARTMENT. PERHAPS 20 MINUTES."

"THIS IS ILLUSTRATED BY A CASE WHEN A GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIAL MADE A MISTAKE AND REFERRED TO "FINLANDIZATION".  
AMBASSADOR TUOMINEN WAS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE NEXT DAY."

ANGELA DAVIS CASE IRRITATED

IN ADDITION TO THE CIA PROGRAM ON TV, AMBASSADOR AUSTAD  
MENTIONS ANOTHER CASE WHICH IRRITAED HIM GREATLY.

"I BROUGHT DR. DIXIE LEE RAY TO FINLAND. SHE IS ONE OF THE  
FOREMOST MARINE BIOLOGISTS IN THE WORLD AND JUST LEFT THE  
POST OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE AEC FOR OTHER DUTIES. SHE KNEW  
A LOT ABOUT ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY, WHICH IS JUST  
WHAT FINLAND NEEDS." "PRESIDENT KEKKONEN KINDLY RECEIVED  
HER, SCIENTISTS WER INTERESTED, THERE WERE A LOT OF  
STORIES IN THE NEWSPAPERS - BUT TELEVISION DID NOT MENTION  
ANYTHING ABOUT HER."

"THEN, A FEW WEEKS LATER ANGELA DAVIS ARRIVES STRAIGHT  
FROM PRISON TO PROMOTE HER BOOK. TV MADE A BIG STORY  
ABOUT HER. SHE HOWEVER REPRESENTS SUCH A SMALL PART OF  
THE U.S. POPULATION THAT YOU CANNOT EVEN WEIGH IT ON A  
SCALE."

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